

SECOND CONFERENCE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
REMARKS BY ROGER SKOLMEN
AT DEDICATION OF THE HAWAII FIELD RESEARCH CENTER
ON BEHALF OF STATION DIRECTOR CALLAHAM

Robert Z. Callaham
Pacific Southwest Forest and Range Experiment Station
Berkeley, California

I am delighted to be here this morning representing Director Callaham, our Station Director. He regrets being unable to be here but sends his greetings and enthusiastic endorsement of the development of this Center, which includes the new field laboratory for our Experiment Station. Everyone in the Forest Service had planned and hoped to have our building in place by the time of this dedication. But our building is now on a boat somewhere this side of Oakland. Ordered from the factory in Oakland last March, it is expected to arrive at any moment.

Ours will be a carbon copy of the building purchased by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Attractive siting was planned by Tom Fake of the National Park Service. Only by piggybacking on the order for a building by the Fish and Wildlife Service and having strong support by the Park Service were we able to get this new facility. Their cooperation and help made it all possible.

This new field lab will provide space for eight of our scientists and technicians who will work here most of the year. They belong to one of the four research projects of our Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry. The aim of this project is to provide technology for maintaining native Hawaiian forest ecosystems. Their particular purpose is to learn more about the habitat requirements of endangered forest birds on the Big Island. Emphasis so far has been in the Kilauea Forest Reserve--Keauhou land area. We are starting new work on the Hawaiian Crow and endangered plants. C. J. Ralph, leader of this research project, and his associates will be speaking on these subjects today.

This new field laboratory certainly will expedite our research. Most of the researchers' time is spent in the field, establishing plots, capturing and examining birds, and carefully monitoring them as they feed, rest, seek cover, and nest. The lab will give our research team a place to work on equipment, analyze data, and do some bench-related research. Most important, its location here in this Research Center will enable our people to share experiences, ideas, and resources with others. Such a place is vital to the success of our research program.

We in the Forest Service are excited about joining our research forces with others who will work here at the Hawaii Field Research Center. The National Park Service is to be commended for its initiative and hospitality which brought us all together. The environment is bound to be synergistic, causing each to produce more than if we were working alone. Such synergism is essential, for there is a greater need for knowledge than there is a research capacity to produce it. We expect and know that this Center will foster cooperation, coordination, and mutual concern, enabling all of us to find the answers we seek.